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Because of the rain, there was less sunshine during March than during February. The total amount of sunshine at Keszthely was 40 percent less, and at Mosonmagyaróvár 35 percent less than usual.

March began with moderately cold temperatures. A temperature of minus 1.8 degrees at Baja made 1 March the coldest day of the month. The temperature throughout Hungary varied between minus one and minus 3 degrees, reaching minus 5 at Sopron and Tata, and minus 7 at the surface of the soil at these places and at Mosonmagyaróvár. There was a general thaw during the day, the temperature reaching 1-2 degrees at the western border, and 4-6 degrees in the south and east. During the first days of the month a mass of warm air from the Mediterranean came in above the cold, dry air covering the country, causing snow daily. There was snow in the southwest on the 1st and 2d, in the northeast on the 3d, and general snow on the 4th. The temperature varied only slightly in the southern counties, and varied widely in the east, but nocturnal frost was general. On the 2d, the temperature rose to 10 degrees at Bekescsaba and to 9 degrees at Szolnok, Turkeve, and Budapest, but on the 4th, the frost lasted all day at Nyíregyháza, Miskolc, and Budapest. In many places, the lowest temperatures of the month were recorded on the 4th: Keszthely minus 3.1 degrees, Győr minus 4.4 degrees, Szombathely minus 4.7, Nyírbeltek minus 5.0, and Mosonmagyaróvár minus 5.3 degrees. For several days the ground was covered with a thin layer of snow. Warm air entered the Carpathian Basin on the 6th, raising the general temperature above 10 degrees, with 12 degrees at Kaposvár. The highest temperature at Mosonmagyaróvár and at Sopron was 4 degrees. On the morning of the 5th, surface frost formed at only a few places, at high altitudes. Daytime temperatures continued to rise, mainly in the southeast, and the temperature occasionally exceeded 15 degrees. There were storms on the 8th at Nagykoros, Szolnok, Csepel, Füzesgyarmat, Geszt, Nyarlóránc, Pusztapata, and Bogyiszló, with hail also reported at Orosháza. The rain and hailstorms were repeated on the 9th, chiefly in Baranya, Bács-Kiskun, Csongrád, Bekes, and Szolnok counties. At Tómpa, the ground was covered to a depth of one centimeter with hailstones which ranged up to 11 millimeters in diameter. On the following day, the 10th, the layer of ice remained intact at Mosonmagyaróvár, while the temperature in the southeast reached 10-12 degrees. On the 10th, there were rain and hailstorms at Décs and on the Zórák plain.

The temperature in the south rose on the 11th, due to the entrance in the west of a mass of warm air from the Adriatic, but cold continental air continued to invade the country from the northeast. Warm air predominated, and on the 14th the temperature reached 20 degrees at many places. The 14th was the warmest day of the month in the southwest and in the northeast, with 18.0 degrees recorded at Lenti, 19.7 at Keszthely, 18.9 at Kiszvánd, 19.5 at Nyíregyháza, and 20.0 degrees at Nyírbeltek.

The temperature dropped 1-2 degrees from the 15th to the 17th due to showers and hail. There were storms at Szolnok, Zalatárnok, and Abony, and hail at Dunaharaszti.

The 18th was one of the warmest days of the month throughout the country. The general temperature in the south and east was 20, and in the west 16-19 degrees. The temperature recorded at Sopron was 21.9, at Szekszárd 21.5, Szeged 20.7, Baja 20.3, Pécs 19.8, and Kalocsa 19.6 degrees. The 19th was the warmest day of the month at Salgotarján, with a temperature of 17.5 degrees, at Miskolc 19.0, and Szolnok 20.7 degrees. The temperature at Budapest on both days was 17.9 degrees.

The entrance of a mass of polar air lowered the temperature 6-8 degrees by the 22d, and general morning frost reappeared. The morning of the 22d was the coldest of the month, with minus 5.4 degrees recorded in the Komlos fields near Kecskemet (minus 8.9 degrees at the soil surface), Salgotarján minus 6.7 (minus 8.1 at the surface), Miskolc minus 5.4 (minus 8.0), Nyíregyháza minus 5.5 (minus 8.1), Turkeve minus 6.0 (minus 11.5), and at Putnok minus 6.2 degrees. The cold wave was accompanied by snow, bringing a few snow flurries to Kunhegyes and Kunmadaras.

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A temporary warming which brought the temperature across the country to 14-16 degrees was followed by heavy precipitation and a drop in temperature. On the night of the 25th there was a windstorm, borne by a strong north wind, in the region west of the Danube and in some of the northern countries, and the temperature did not rise above 5-7 degrees. The temperature remained at 15 degrees in the southeast at Bekescsaba and Debrecen, and the prevailing wind was from the south. There was precipitation in nearly the entire country, with snow falling in the region west of the Danube and in the northern mountains. Enormous snowdrifts were reported in the Matra Mountains. Because of the snowdrifts, a meteorologist was unable to approach the weather station atop Mount Galyateto. Precipitation exceeded 30 millimeters in the mountain regions of Pilis, Borzsony, Cserhat, and Matra. Snow accumulated to a depth of 48.2 millimeters at Parad, 44.2 at Paradasasvar, 41.6 at Ersekvadkert, 41.5 at Matraverebely, 41.0 at Becske, 40.3 at Diosjeno, 39.0 at Danszentmiklos, 37.0 at Galgamacska, and 36.0 at Matrahaza. At Karancskeszzi the weight of the accumulated wet snow damaged trees and electrical wires. On the 26th, the cold air covered the eastern counties also, and the temperature rose only to 5-6 degrees. After the snow stopped, the general temperature rose to 10-13 degrees, and nocturnal cooling was less marked, although there was scattered frost on the morning of the 28th. However, the mild wave did not last. On the same day, another cold wave covered the country, bringing considerable precipitation to Somogy and Zala counties. On the 29th, there was general rain, the greatest quantity falling east of the Tisza, with 28.8 millimeters of precipitation recorded at Tiszabecs, and 25.0 millimeters at Mateszalka. There were great contrasts in temperature on the 29th, with a temperature of 4 degrees recorded at Pecs and 17 degrees at Bekescsaba. On the last day of the month the temperature rose above 15 degrees in the eastern counties, reaching 20 degrees at Szeged and Debrecen, and 21.2 degrees, the high for the month, at Bekescsaba. Precipitation did not exceed one millimeter. The situation was reversed at the western border. The temperature rose only to 9-11 degrees, while precipitation at Koszeg totaled 38.0 millimeters, at Szentgotthard 37.0, at Felsosolnok 34.3, and at Gasztony 32.9 millimeters.

The month ended with changing weather.

The following map shows the distribution of precipitation in March 1951.

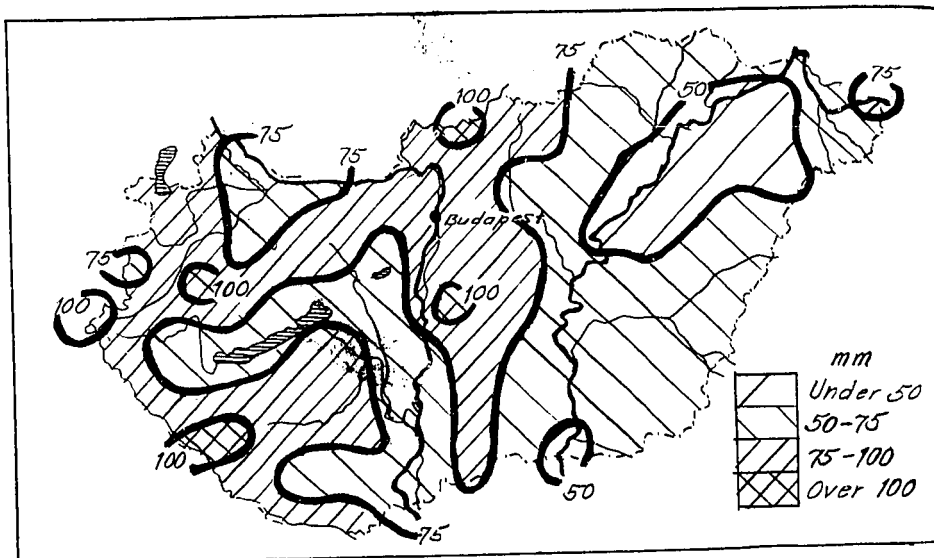
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Distribution of Precipitation
March 1951

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